

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of system for utilizing a collective processing
2 capability of a plurality of computers after the computers have been sold to purchasers by a
3 vendor, the method system comprising the steps of:

4 entering into a plurality of agreements, each of which is between the vendor and a
5 different one of the purchasers, wherein the agreements specify that the vendor retains a right to
6 use processing resources of, ~~with respect to a specific one of the corresponding computers to be~~
7 ~~sold to said one of the purchasers, the vendor retains a right to use said specific one~~ after the sale
8 of the computers thereof;

9 conveying, subject to said agreements, the plurality of the computers to said purchasers;

10 and

11 ~~interconnecting the computers via the Internet to create a network; and~~

12 using a [[the]] network of the plurality of computers to provide a service that provides the
13 vendor with a commercial benefit.

1 2. (Currently Amended) The method system of claim 1, wherein each one of said
2 plurality of agreements is entered into prior to the sale of a respective said specific one of the
3 computers ~~via the network.~~

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method system of claim 1, wherein each ~~the~~ agreement
2 provides a purchasing incentive to each of the purchasers.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 1, wherein, in response to a query generated by a first one of the computers and received by a second one of the computers, using the processing resource of the second one of the computers to send data is sent from the second one of the computers to the first one of the computers, wherein the processing resource of the second one of the computers used is the processing resource retained by a corresponding one of the agreements.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 4, wherein said data comprises an Internet web page.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 1, wherein the network comprises a plurality of nodes, each of which includes one of the computers, and wherein one of the nodes is a vendor node, the method further comprising: and
~~wherein~~ the vendor node maintaining maintains a list of all of the computers connected thereto, along with the respective IP addresses for each of the computers, and information identifying files stored on each respective one of the computers.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 1, wherein the network comprises a plurality of peers, each of which includes one of the computers, the method further comprising: and
configuring wherein each of the peers in the network as is a server that acts as both a client and a server to distribute data between the peers in response to a query generated by one of the peers.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 7, further comprising: wherein:
distributing said query ~~is distributed~~ between successive said peers until the query is received by one of the peers having access to said data; and
distributing said data ~~is distributed~~ between successive said peers until the data is received by said one of the peers that generated the query.

9. (Currently Amended) The method system of claim 1, wherein said network includes said computers used by entities not in privity with the vendor.

10. (Currently Amended) The method system of claim 1, wherein retaining the right to use said processing resources specific one of the computers includes comprises retaining the right to use low-priority processor cycles of the corresponding specific one of the computers to effect said service.

11. (Currently Amended) The method system of claim 1, wherein retaining the right to use said processing resources comprises retaining specific one of the computers includes the right to use a predetermined amount of processor time within a fixed interval of time in each of the specific one of the computers to effect said service, within a fixed interval of time.

12.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of system for utilizing a collective processing capability of a plurality of devices containing embedded processors, after the devices have been sold to purchasers by a vendor, the method system comprising the steps of:

- entering into an agreement between the vendor and one of the purchasers wherein, with respect to a specific one of the devices to be sold to said one of the purchasers, the vendor retains a right to use a portion of the embedded processor of said specific device one after the sale thereof;
- conveying the specific device to said one of the purchasers at least one of the devices to a purchaser, after entering into said agreement;
- repeating the previous two steps until a predetermined minimum number of said devices that are connectable to for creating a network have been sold; and
- interconnecting the devices via the Internet to create the network; and
- using the network to provide a service, used by the purchasers, that provides the vendor with a commercial benefit.

15.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 14[[15]], wherein the network comprises a plurality of nodes, each of which includes one of the devices, and wherein one of the nodes is a vendor node, ~~the method further comprising: and~~
~~wherein~~ the vendor node ~~maintaining~~ maintains a list of all of the devices connected thereto, along with the respective IP addresses for each of the devices, and information identifying files accessible by each respective one of the devices.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 14[[15]], wherein the network comprises a plurality of peers, each of which includes one of the devices, ~~the method further comprising: and~~
~~configuring wherein~~ each of the peers in the network ~~as is~~ is a servent that acts as both a client and a server to distribute data between the peers in response to a query generated by one of the peers.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 14, wherein the right to use a ~~portion of the embedded processor of~~ said specific one of the devices includes the right to use low-priority processor cycles of the specific one of the devices to effect said service.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~method system~~ of claim 14, wherein the right to use a ~~portion of the embedded processor of~~ said specific one of the devices includes the right to use a predetermined amount of processor time ~~within a fixed interval of time in of~~ the specific one of the devices to effect said service, ~~within a fixed interval of time.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A method system for utilizing a collective processing capability of a plurality of computers comprising ~~the steps of~~:

(a) entering into an agreement between a vendor of said computers and a purchaser of a corresponding one of the computers, wherein the vendor retains a right to use a processing resource of the corresponding computer after the sale thereof; and

(b) conveying said corresponding one of the computers to said purchaser, after entering into said agreement;

wherein steps (a) and (b) are repeated with a different said purchaser until a ~~predetermined minimum~~ number of the computers that are connectable to ~~for creating~~ a network have been sold; and (c) ~~interconnecting the devices via the Internet to create a network.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The method system of claim 21, further comprising ~~including the additional step of~~ using the network to provide a service by the vendor.

23.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein entering into the plurality of agreements further comprises entering into the plurality of agreements to retain a right to use secure storage areas in the computers to store data of the vendor.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein retaining the right to use the secure areas comprises retaining the right to use virtual environments in the computers for storing the vendor data.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein entering into the plurality of agreements further comprises entering into the plurality of agreements to run software of the vendor using the retained processing resources of the computers, the method further comprising:
receiving a request from a requestor for the service; and
running the software on at least one of the computers in response to the request.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein retaining the right to use the processing resources of the computers comprises retaining the right to use the processing resource of at least one of the computers to retrieve data to provide to a requestor over the network in response to a request from the requestor.

30. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the portion of the embedded processor of one of the predetermined minimum number of said devices is used for providing the service in response to a request submitted by a requestor over the network.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the request is for data, and wherein the portion of the embedded processor of the one of the predetermined minimum number of said devices is used to retrieve the data for provision back to the requestor.

32. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein entering into the corresponding agreement between the vendor and each of the purchasers comprises entering into the corresponding agreement to allow the vendor to use the processing resource of each of the number of computers to retrieve data for provision to a requestor over the network in response to a request submitted by the requestor.